

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tammany

AND/OR COMMON

Mount Tammany

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

#11

End of Tammany Lane, north of U.S. Route

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Williamsport

X VICINITY OF

Sixth

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

024

Washington

043

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT
X BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC
X PRIVATE
___ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED
___ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
___ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
X NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE
___ COMMERCIAL
___ EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
___ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Vincent R. Groh

STREET & NUMBER

153 West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown,

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

WA-I-023

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED 50% | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | DATE _____ |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Mount Tammany" or "Tammany" is located at the end of Tammany Lane, north of U.S. Route 11, just northeast of Williamsport in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on an area of level ground and faces south.

Mount Tammany is a two-part brick structure resting on low fieldstone foundations. The main block is a two-story, three-bay structure with a side hall entrance. Attached to its north gable wall is a two-story, five-bay structure also of brick, but much lower in height than the main section. Apparently the wing was originally one and a half stories high.

The walls of the main section of Tammany display Flemish bond brickwork at the front or south elevation and the east end wall. American or common bonding is used at the north and west elevations. A water table of quarter round bricks extends along the south and west walls. The entire surface of the house has been painted white. Prominent wall decoration at the front elevation consists of flat arches of cut stone with large keystones. Flat arches of brick are present above other windows.

Windows at the first story of the front elevation have been enlarged into French doors. Above them are openings with twelve-over-eight light sash held within wide frames. A twelve-over-twelve pane sash is used at the first story in the east end wall. A small circular window is set in each gable. Original windows in the wing have nine-over-six light sash. In both sections most windows are flanked by louvered shutters.

The main entrance is located in the easternmost bay of the front elevation. It has trim similar to that of the windows and is topped with a broad, four-light transom. Extending across the front elevation is a one-story porch with a low hipped roof. It is supported by round Doric pillars.

The roof of each section of the house is sheathed with sheet metal and terminates with barge boards set directly against the end walls. The eaves at the front elevation of the main section are finished with modillions under which runs a course of small dentils. At other elevation the eaves treatment is more simple. A large brick chimney is located inside the east gable end. A smaller, more recent furnace flue is attached to the west end wall. Another brick chimney is located inside the east end of the wing.

The interior of the main section of the house at the first story level consists of a wide entrance and stair hall and a large double parlor, each section having a fireplace. The woodwork is elaborate, some appearing to date from the late 18th century and some from the mid or late 19th. Door architraves displaying crossettes or "ears" at their upper corners are among the 18th century details of the house. Later work includes the French doors and arched fireplace openings trimmed with acanthus leaf cartouches.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

WA-I-023

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | |

Association with the
Lear and Findley familie

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1780s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Tammany, a two-part brick house near Williamsport, Maryland, is believed to have been built during the 1780s by Matthew Van Lear, a prominent early resident of Washington County. The property remained in the hands of his descendants until 1928. The Van Lear family was related to William Findley, Governor of Pennsylvania, and Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States.

Known throughout its history as a "Country Mansion," Tammany is a rare example of an 18th century brick dwelling in Washington County, and one that contains unusually elaborate exterior and interior decorative detail. (See description) It consists of a two-story, three-bay main block with a two-story, five-bay wing which apparently originally had one and a half stories. Such exterior features on the main section as keystones above the facade openings and round windows in the gables are particularly worthy of note. Rich interior ornamentation is associated with the doors and fireplaces.

Additional information on the history of the Van Lear family is to be found in the attached excerpts from The History of Western Maryland by Thomas Scharf and T.J. C. Williams' History of Washington County.

The Van Lear family is one of the oldest in Western Maryland. The branch that came to Williamsport consisted of two brothers, Matthew and William, who, according to local histories, engaged in trade with the West. They later purchased a large tract of land near Williamsport where Matthew built this brick house shortly after the close of the Revolution. He named it Tammany after a well-known Indian chief of that time. Tammany is said to have been built of bricks made on the property.

When he settled at Tammany, Matthew ended his commercial ventures and became a successful farmer. He died in 1823, leaving a sizable estate, which was not settled until 1862, but was administered by several of his sons, who kept a common fund for support and education of all the Van Lear children.

Matthew Van Lear's wife was Mary Irwin, who was born near Mercersburg in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. One of her sisters married William Findley, Governor of Pennsylvania and later U.S. Senator. Mary Irwin's brother, Archibald, had a daughter who married a son of William Henry Harrison and served briefly as mistress of the White House. Another daughter of Archibald Irwin married another Harrison son and became the mother of

See Continuation Sheet #1

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Tammany
Washington County,
CONTINUATION SHEET - Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Benjamin Harrison. Sophia Van Lear, youngest child of Matthew and Mary Irwin, married Archibald Irwin Findley, a lawyer from Chambersburg, Pa. and son of William Findley.

The Tammany Mansion today is part of a housing subdivision which dates from the 1950s. It is visually separated from the more recent dwellings by its large lot screened with old plantings.

WA-I-023

Williams, T.J.C. History of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

GPO 892-45

ABSTRACT

WA-I-023

18th Century

Mt. Tammany

Williamsport Vicinity

private

Mt. Tammany is a two part brick house near Williamsport, Maryland, believed to have been built during the 1780's by Matthew Van Lear, a prominent early resident of Washington County. The property remained in the hands of Matthew Van Lear's descendants until 1928. The Van Lear family was related to William Findley, Governor of Pennsylvania and Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States.

Known throughout its history as a 'Country Mansion', Tammany is a rare example of an 18th century brick dwelling in Washington County and one that contains unusually elaborate exterior and interior decorative detail. It consists of a two story, three bay main block with a two story, five bay wing which apparently originally had one and a half stories. Such exterior features on the main section as keystones above the facade openings and round windows in the gables are particularly worthy of note. Rich interior ornamentation is associated with the doors and fireplaces.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Mt. Tammany

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Tammany Manor

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

☒ VICINITY OF Williamsport

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Washington

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Vincent R. Groh

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

153 W. Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21740

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Washington County Court House

Liber #: 415

Folio #: 724

STREET & NUMBER

West Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust Survey # 4004

DATE

Summer 1967

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED < 50% | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Mt. Tammany" or "Tammany" is located at the end of Tammany Lane, north of U.S. Route 11, just northeast of Williamsport in Washington County, Maryland. It is situated on an area of level ground and faces south.

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The walls of the main section of Tammany display Flemish bond brickwork at the front or south elevation and the east end wall. American or common bonding is used at the north and west elevations. A water table of quarter round bricks extends along the south and west walls. The entire surface of the house has been painted white. Prominent wall decoration at the front elevation consists of cut stone flat arches with large keystones. Flat arches of brick are present above other windows.

Windows at the first story of the front elevation have been enlarged into French doors. Above them are openings with twelve over eight light sashes, held within wide frames. A twelve over twelve pane sash is used at the first story in the east end wall. A small circular window is set in each gable. Original windows in the wing have nine over six light sashes. In both sections most windows are flanked by louvered shutters.

The main entrance is located in the east end bay of the front elevation. It has trim similar to that of the windows and is topped with a broad four light transom. Extending across the front elevation is a one story porch with a low hipped roof. It is supported by round doric pillars.

The roof of each section of the house is sheathed with sheet metal and terminates with barge boards set directly against the end walls. The eaves at the front elevation of the main section are finished with modillions under which runs a course of small dentils. At other elevations the eaves treatment is more simple. A large brick chimney is located inside the east gable end. A smaller, more recent furnace flue is attached to the west end wall. Another brick chimney is located inside the east end of the wing.

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Believed to have been built during the 1780's by Matthew Van Lear, Mt. Tammany is in excellent condition. It stands on a lot of ground containing 2.6 acres.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | Association with the Van Lear and Findley families | |

SPECIFIC DATES Ca. 1780's BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mt. Tammany is a two part brick house near Williamsport, Maryland, believed to have been built during the 1780's by Matthew Van Lear, a prominent early resident of Washington County. The property remained in the hands of Matthew Van Lear's descendants until 1928. The Van Lear family was related to William Findley, Governor of Pennsylvania and Benjamin Harrison, President of the United States.

Known throughout its history as a Country Mansion, Tammany is a rare example of an 18th century brick dwelling in Washington County and one that contains unusually elaborate exterior and interior decorative detail. It consists of a two story, three bay main block with a two story, five bay wing which apparently originally had one and a half stories. Such exterior features on the main section as keystones above the facade openings and round windows in the gables are particularly worthy of note. Rich interior ornamentation is associated with the doors and fireplaces.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scharf, Thomas J., History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia, Pa: Louis H. Everts, 1882.
Washington County Land Records.
Washington County Probate Records.
Williams, T.J.C., History of Washington County. Hagerstown, Md: Mail Publishing Co., 1906.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.60 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | COUNTY |
|-------|--------|
| | |
| STATE | COUNTY |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paula Stoner Dickey, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Washington County Historical Sites Survey

DATE

March 1977

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, 33 West Washington Street

TELEPHONE

791-3065

CITY OR TOWN

Hagerstown

STATE

Maryland 21740

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND.

235

Stewart's book-store and bindery, the cloth-store of Zaccheus McComas and the paint shop of L. Hurley were all destroyed. These were the property of J. D. Hager of Kentucky. The three newspapers next to the quarters in the three-story store building on the north-east corner of the Square. The same to the assistance of the unfortunate persons in publishing their next number. A fire incident occurred in Feb. 1839, which was the character and customs of the people of Hagerstown. Mrs. Schleigh, the wife of John Schleigh, whilst suffering from mental aberration, fled from her home. The church-bells of Hagerstown were rung, and the people called together for a meeting; a regular search was instituted, but without success. The next day, the bells were rung and the people assembled to receive further instructions, and a still more careful systematic search of every nook and corner of the town. The woman disappeared on Tuesday, and the following Sunday she was found dead in Middlekauff's woods, a half mile from

well known people died about this time. In 1839, Captain Casper Snively, a Revolutionary, died at the age of 79. About the same time, Daniel Beltzhoover, for years the best known tavern-keeper in Hagerstown, died of yellow fever in Natchez. A man also died in Baltimore in the same year. He was one of the leading merchants of Hagerstown from 1787 to 1795, when he went to Baltimore. His wife was Ann Owen, a descendant of the Owen family. He was a native of Ireland, and of marked character and ability, occupying a high position in Baltimore and in the State. The death of John Van Lear, Sr., took place on March 14, 1839, at the age of 70 years. He was a member of a distinguished family which resided at "Tammany" a beautiful country place near Williamsport, since the close of the Revolutionary War. It was Matthew Van Lear who owned the tract of land near Williamsport on which the old dwelling house which is still standing. His wife was Mary Irwin of Franklin County. Mary Irwin's sister married James Findlay of Cincinnati, and Nancy, another sister, married Archibald Findlay. Matthew Van Lear had three children. John and Joseph Van Lear were his sons. They lived at Tammany, and had a large number of nephews and nieces.

Among these were the daughters of the eldest daughter of Matthew Van Lear who had married Col. John Ramsey of Pittsburg. They were of distinguished beauty. One of them met with a French artist, who fell madly in love with her. He made her portrait, which he took with him to France and there an engraving of it was made entitled "The Beautiful American." Several copies of this engraving adorn walls in Washington County, and one of them hangs in the parlor at "Tammany." All of these beautiful girls died at an early age, except the eldest, who married William Irwin, of Cincinnati. Through the Irwins the Van Lears are closely related to the late President Benjamin Harrison. Sophia, the youngest of the twelve children of Matthew Van Lear, married Archibald Irwin Findlay, a lawyer of Chambersburg, Pa., a son of William Findlay, Governor of Pennsylvania and afterwards U. S. Senator from Pennsylvania. Archibald Findlay left three children, James and Miss Nancy I. Findlay who now live at Tammany, and John Van Lear Findlay an ex-member of Congress and a member of the Baltimore Bar. Archibald Findlay's sister married Francis R. Shunk, afterwards Governor of Pennsylvania. He was the father of Casper Shunk, of Williamsport in this County. John Van Lear McMahon, the historian and lawyer, was the son of a sister of Matthew Van Lear, who had married William McMahon of Cumberland. Two of the daughters of Archibald Irwin, who was a brother of Governor William Findlay's wife, married sons of President William Henry Harrison. One of these sons, John Scott Harrison, was the father of President Benjamin Harrison. The father of Major John Van Lear, of Hagerstown, was the son of Dr. William Van Lear, a son of Matthew and a prominent physician of Washington County, who died in 1837.

It was in 1837 that the great movement from Washington County to the Rock River country of Northern Illinois began. From that time to the present an uninterrupted stream of emigrants have left their native homes and peopled the several counties in that State. At present the stream is greatly diminished, but during the spring months in recent years a large party of emigrants could be seen leaving Hagerstown for the West every Tuesday. The major portion of these were bound for Rock River country. But at present, whilst the parties still leave in diminished numbers, most of them are from the counties adjoin-

*Scharf, Thomas J. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia:
Louis. H. Everts. 1882.*

May 8, 1867, and framed the constitution of the State. His early life was passed in mercantile pursuits, from 1825 to 1831, in Williamsport, Md. In the latter year he was appointed executor of his late employer, and in 1832 entered into partnership with J. F. Dillinger, to conduct the dry-goods, grocery, and general variety business. This business continued until 1838, when he formed a partnership with John Baker in the same line of business, which continued until 1843, when he became, by the purchase of his partner's interest, the sole proprietor, and so continued until 1854, when a partnership was formed with Isaac Gruber, which continued until 1860, when he sold out his interest and retired from the mercantile business. He has been successful in all his enterprises. In December, 1859, he was elected cashier of the Washington County Bank of Williamsport, Md., which position he held until the bank was changed, in 1866, into a national bank, when he declined re-election as cashier, and was elected unanimously president of the Washington County National Bank, which office he resigned April, 1880, on account of ill health.

The Van Lear family. Among the oldest families of Western Maryland are the Van Lears, who for nearly a century have occupied the well-known Tammany plantation, near Williamsport, on the turnpike connecting that town with Hagerstown. According to "Foote's Historical Reminiscences," and well-established traditions in the family, its founder, John Van Lear, of sturdy Calvinist stock, emigrated from Holland in the early part of the eighteenth century and settled in Philadelphia, where he took an active part in the building of the first Presbyterian church erected in that city. His son, also named John, afterwards settled in Lancaster County, Pa. The descendants of John Van Lear separated into two branches, one of which, represented by Matthew and William, located first in Hagerstown. Matthew and William Van Lear engaged in trade with the West, and afterwards purchased a large tract of land in the vicinity of Williamsport, upon part of which the descendants of Matthew still reside. The other branch of the Lancaster family removed to Augusta County, Va., where its representatives are to be found. One of the Augusta Van Lears was present at the siege of Yorktown and the surrender of Cornwallis. One of the Maryland family, too, was only prevented from being present upon that memorable occasion by a serious wound received just previous to its occurrence. This was William Van Lear, who at the outbreak of the Revolutionary war joined the army, rose to the rank of major, and was frequently the guest at Gen.

Washington's table, as autographic invitations preserved by the family still attest. Maj. Van Lear was wounded in a skirmish just prior to the surrender at Yorktown, which prevented him from witnessing that event. He carried the enemy's ball until his death, which his wound was supposed to have hastened. He was an original member of The Society of the Cincinnati. The other brother, Matthew, married Mary Irwin, of the well-known family of that name in Franklin County, Pa., and abandoning commercial pursuits about the close of the Revolutionary war, purchased a tract of land which he called "Tammany," after a well-known Indian chief of that name, and, after erecting the mansion so well known in the county, he settled there, and became an intelligent and successful farmer. There were born to him twelve children, many of whom, however, died young. Those who lived to a sufficient age, with one exception, were educated at the best seminaries and colleges in the country. He was a man of strong intellect, of sterling principle, and of unswerving convictions. In religion he was a Presbyterian, both by birth and by conviction, and to the forms and tenets of this church he clung with unyielding tenacity. In politics he was a Federalist, and was once the candidate which that party brought forward to contest congressional honors with Gen. Ringgold, the candidate of the Jeffersonian Republicans, who so long represented the district. He was defeated, and was thus left free to pursue his chosen occupation as a tiller of the soil until his death, which occurred on the 5th day of July, 1823. He is buried in the family lot at Williamsport.

John Van Lear, his oldest son, was born Nov. 18, 1786. He went to Baltimore when quite a youth, and afterwards achieved great success as a merchant, the firm of Finley & Van Lear, of which he was a partner, on Howard Street, being still remembered by very old citizens. Meeting with reverses, however, he returned to Williamsport, and subsequently became, first, president, and afterwards cashier, of the Washington County Bank, which institution he faithfully and acceptably served for more than a quarter of a century, dying in its service on the 24th of April, 1857. For public life he had little taste, although at one time he was a member of the Board of Public Works. Indeed, he had little time for such service, for although a bachelor, he had reared, as he afterwards said, more children than any head of a family in Washington County.

This feature of his life deserves special mention, and is much more worthy of being recorded and commemorated than the empty honors of Congress

and the Legislature. His death, the estate of which, large, was somewhat to be advantageous, was held together, Dr. William, Joseph, pay off the debts of the children of the deceased, which might be sufficient if divided so that which he was contented. Matthew, from the compensation service some years single, and for a living only with the of rearing and grandnephews and the youngest son about completed the lar arrangement all thoughts of ments, for which into the work with lute self-denial as to it. He undertook affairs of the estate to nearly twelve commercial flour of barrels of flour was a large trade winter, in cold absent from the self-denial until finally loosened tober, 1859. Joseph the estate, and adapted for the estate, notwithstanding the heavy charges their death, and 1862.

Both the brothers Joseph Van Lear and it can be seen he did not lack distinguished character, and the members of the death he was a citizen in all the town itself County, Va.

and the Legislature. At the time of his mother's death, the estate his father left behind him, although large, was somewhat involved, and not in a condition to be advantageously divided, and in consequence was held together, John Van Lear and his brothers, Dr. William, Joseph, and Matthew, undertaking to pay off the debts and to support and educate the children of the deceased heirs out of a common fund, which might be sufficient for the purpose, but which, if divided so that each one received the share to which he was entitled, would prove entirely inadequate. Matthew afterwards married and withdrew from the compact, and William having died in the service some years before, John and Joseph remained single, and for a period of nearly forty years, terminating only with death, devoted themselves to the task of rearing and educating nephews and nieces and grandnephews and grandnieces. Joseph, who was the youngest son, was born April 10, 1800, and had about completed his medical studies when this singular arrangement was entered into; but, abandoning all thoughts of professional reputation and emoluments, for which he had a fair chance, threw himself into the work with an energy of purpose and resolute self-denial as if he had been specially consecrated to it. He undertook the management of the outside affairs of the estate, which by additions soon amounted to nearly twelve hundred acres of land, besides a large commercial flouring-mill, in which many thousands of barrels of flour were annually manufactured. This was a large trust, but day and night, summer and winter, in cold and heat, his steady hand was never absent from the helm during all these long years of self-denial until its grasp was enfeebled by disease and finally loosened by death. He died on the 21st of October, 1859. John Van Lear managed the finances of the estate, and the two brothers were singularly well adapted for their respective positions, as the large estate, notwithstanding its original incumbrances and the heavy charges upon it in the mean time, left at their death, amply attests. It was finally divided in 1862.

Both the brothers were staunch Whigs in politics. Joseph Van Lear was born to lead a forlorn hope, and it can be written of him with perfect truth that he did not know what fear was. Dr. William was distinguished by the same intrepid spirit, dignity of character, and sterling worth which characterized all the members of this family. At the time of his death he was the most popular and successful physician in all the country surrounding Williamsport, in the town itself, and across the Potomac in Berkeley County, Va. He was born on the 29th of January,

1794, and died in May, 1837. Two of his sons still survive,—the Rev. Matthew, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, now settled at Winchester, Ky., and Maj. John Van Lear, at present paymaster of the Marietta and Cincinnati Railroad.

The eldest daughter and oldest child of Matthew Van Lear married Col. John Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, and became the mother of what were called forty years ago in Washington County the "beautiful Ramseys." There were three or four of these girls, distinguished for their exquisite grace of manner and person, who constituted a part of the orphan flock that the old bachelor uncles referred to took in charge. At the time they formed part of the household Tammany was a favorite resort of the young gallants of the county from far and near. Among others who was a constant visitor, was the late Hon. John V. L. McMahon, a first-cousin of their mother and bachelor uncles. Mr. McMahon was the son of William McMahon, of Cumberland, and of his first wife, who was a sister of Matthew Van Lear, the founder of Tammany. It may not be out of place here to state that his maternal uncle had the sagacity to foresee that a large city was the only fit arena for the display of his very remarkable talents, and when temporarily discouraged by his want of success in Baltimore, and about to return to Cumberland, and, indeed, on his way back, put money in his purse and told him to try the city again. The time of Mr. McMahon's visits was made the occasion of much merriment, and many were the pranks and tricks which still linger in the traditions of the old house. Mr. McMahon was baptized John Van Lear, after his maternal grandfather. The Misses Ramsey died young and unmarried, with the exception of Sarah, who married William Irwin, of Cincinnati, by whom she had a family of six children, all of whom at his death, with their widowed mother, subsequently returned to the old roof-tree at Tammany. There were, besides the daughter of Matthew Van Lear who married Col. Ramsey, twin sisters, married to two of the Finley brothers, John and Dr. Michael, sons of Ebenezer Finley, a prominent merchant in his day in Baltimore. One of these brothers, Dr. Michael, was long an able and successful physician in Williamsport, where he is buried. The other, John Finley, was a merchant in Baltimore. He had one daughter, who died young. Dr. and Mrs. Finley had no children. There was a fourth sister, the youngest of the twelve children of Matthew Van Lear. Her name was Sophia, and she married, in October, 1829, Archibald Irwin Findlay, a lawyer practicing in Chambersburg, Pa., a man of fine literary tastes and attainments. He was the son

of William Findlay, who had been for years treasurer, then Governor of Pennsylvania, and afterwards United States Senator from that State, filling that position at the same time that his two brothers were members of the House of Representatives,—one of them, Col. John Findlay, from Pennsylvania, and the other, Gen. James Findlay, from Ohio. It is believed that the only other instance of the kind in the history of the country was the case of the three Washburn brothers. They, however, were members of the same House.

The only sister of Mr. Findlay was married to Francis R. Shunk, who, after filling many distinguished positions in Pennsylvania, died while serving his second term as Governor of the State and on the high-road to further promotion. A brother, James Findlay, became Speaker of the House of Delegates and Secretary of the Commonwealth under Governor Wolf, and at the time of his death was one of the leading lawyers of the bar at Pittsburgh. Another brother, John King Findlay, graduated at West Point, and after a short service in the army took up the profession of the law, and afterwards became judge in Philadelphia, and at Allentown and Easton. Still another brother, Samuel, who declined steady work and application, was recognized in all circles in which he entered as the most brilliant conversationalist of his time. Archibald I. Findlay died Oct. 8, 1839, in the forty-first year of his age, leaving his wife Sophia a widow with two children, James and Nancy I. Findlay. A third son was born some two months after his death, John V. L. Findlay. This family was taken into Tammany and carefully watched, tended, and educated by the same fostering care which had been extended to so many before. After the death of the old uncles, in the partition of the estate in 1862, the Tammany place was apportioned to Sophia, she being the last survivor of the old Van Lears. She died afterwards in the house in which she was born, on the 21st day of April, 1881, in the seventy-eighth year of her age. Mary Irwin, the wife of Matthew Van Lear, was born near Mercersburg, Franklin Co., Pa. She was a devoted, tender, and Christian mother, for whom all her children felt and expressed the deepest veneration to the last day of their lives. One of her sisters married Gen. James Findlay, and another William Findlay, Governor of Pennsylvania, before referred to. She had a brother Archibald, whose first wife was a sister of the Col. Ramsey before mentioned. One of his daughters married a son of Gen. Harrison, and during his short administration was the lady of the White House, and was distinguished for her grace and beauty. She had

a brother, Capt. James Irwin, a graduate of West Point and Gen. Scott's quartermaster during the Mexican war, and at whose death of fever in the city of Mexico the general is said to have exclaimed "that the army wept." A sister of Mrs. Harrison married John Scott Harrison, another son of Gen. Harrison, and became the mother of the Hon. Benjamin Harrison, one of the senators of the United States from Indiana. "Tammany," the centre of these associations, was built of brick made on the place soon after the termination of the Revolutionary war, and now, after having witnessed many changes of ownership of the surrounding estates, can claim the distinction of still remaining in the same family. There are about four hundred and fifty acres in the tract, part of it wooded and generally well watered. The soil is limestone, well adapted to the growth of wheat, the staple crop of the country. There is a spring near the house which was once shaded by a magnificent elm, and tradition has it that Gen. Braddock on his fateful march rested for a while beneath its shade. "Tammany" is easily reached by rail and turnpike, and there is no house in the county, perhaps in the State, which has entertained so many guests, or sheltered so numerous a family. During the late war a battle was fought in its fields, all fencing was destroyed, and its crops and live stock were either consumed or driven off by the contending forces, but with the renovating hand of art and the gentle touch of time the old place has resumed its wonted thrift and order. One thing has, however, never faded or changed,—the undying devotion of the children who have been reared beneath its roof not only to the memory of their own parents, but to the two noble brothers who sheltered and protected them.

John Van Lear Findlay, a distinguished lawyer and public speaker of Baltimore, was born on the 21st of December, 1839, at Mount Tammany, near Williamsport, Washington Co., Md. His father, Archibald Irwin Findlay, was a sound lawyer and a man of excellent literary taste and accomplishments; his mother, Sophia Van Lear, the daughter of Matthew Van Lear, was born on the 12th of February, 1804. She was possessed of an unerring judgment and common sense which was never at fault, a lofty and intrepid spirit, and gifted with the most gracious and winning manners.

The paternal grandfather of the subject of this sketch was William Findlay, at one time Governor of Pennsylvania and also a senator from that State in the United States Senate.

John V. L. Findlay first married Mary C. Mackenzie, a daughter of Dr. John P. Mackenzie, one of the

most successful physicians of Baltimore. He died March 28, 1868, leaving one child, which subsequently died. His second wife was Mary Kee, the daughter of a prominent lawyer of York, Pa. They were married 23d of January, 1878, and have two children living. He was educated by James Allen, a famous instructor of that day, in the "three R's" at Williamsport, and also by John McCarthy, a graduate of Maynooth, by whom he was grounded in the classics. He was graduated from Princeton in 1858.

While very liberal in his views of religion, he inclined to the Presbyterian Church. In politics, he was reared by his mother's brothers, strong and violent Whigs, but at a time when the Whig party was more a memory than an active political force in shaping the politics of the country. His paternal ancestors were Jeffersonian Republicans, and during the war he was an uncompromising Union man, belonging to the Unconditional Union party, and advocating the prosecution of the war until the unconditional surrender of all opposing forces. After the surrender at Appomattox, he was opposed to extreme and violent measures of reconstruction, and was in favor of restoring the Union to what it had been before the conflict, as near as the altered circumstances of the country would admit. Never a Republican in politics, he opposed the Congressional scheme of reconstruction.

In State politics he has been prominent and active, favoring the abolition or modification of the registration, which at the close of the war disfranchised so many citizens. These sentiments carried him and many other Union men into that wing of the Democratic party known as the Conservative, and it was in deference to these men and their sentiments that the compound name of "Democratic Conservative Party" was adopted in Maryland. He was a member of the Union Legislature of 1861-62, and chairman of the committee on militia. He drafted the bill for the relief of the families of Maryland volunteers in the service of the United States, and was also the author of the measure appropriating \$7000 for the relief of the families of those men of the Sixth Massachusetts Regiment who suffered on the 19th of April. He was appointed by both Houses of the Legislature to deliver an address on the 22d of February, 1862, in commemoration of Washington's birthday. In that Legislature were the Hon. Reverdy Johnson, Allen Bowie Davis, John A. J. Creswell, R. Stockett Mathews, and many other distinguished lawyers and public men of the State. Yet among so many leading men Mr. Findlay took and held a prominent place. In his profession of

the law he occupies a position among the first rank of lawyers at the Baltimore bar, having been the city solicitor for two years from March, 1876. As a political speaker he rendered great service to the Democratic party as well as to the Union party during the war. He has been called upon by the committees of his party to speak in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Virginia, and Maryland, and many of his speeches have been published. He was a prominent leader in the protest of the people of Baltimore against Sheridan's administration in Louisiana, and with Reverdy Johnson, S. T. Wallis, Thomas Donaldson, and William Pinkney Whyte, addressed the people of the city at the Masonic Temple, in February, 1875. He was commissioned and sworn into the military service of the United States, and authorized to raise a company in Washington County, in which effort he was foiled by the approach of Stouewall Jackson, which prevented all work of that kind. He visited and made the tour of Europe in 1873, in company with Andrew Sterret Ridgley. Mr. Findlay is a fluent and forcible speaker, quick at reply, and often eloquent. He has on many public occasions, and notably on the 19th of October, 1876, at the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, and before the Teachers' Association of Hagerstown, in August, 1869, delivered addresses which bore the stamp of great research and investigation.

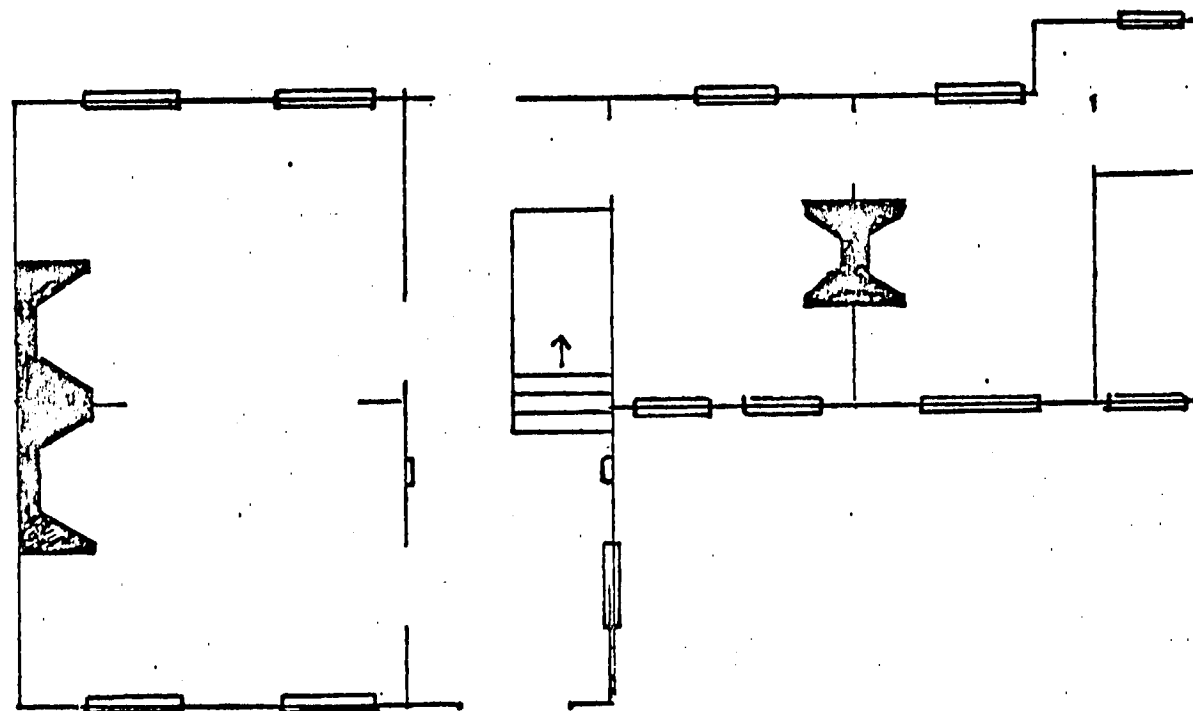
Charles William Humrichouse was born March 13, 1824, at Fredericktown, Md., and resides at Springfield farm, near Williamsport, Washington Co., Md. He was the son of Charles Humrichouse, who was born in Philadelphia, Nov. 19, 1796. His mother's maiden name was Catherine Levy, born in Fredericktown, Md., Aug. 7, 1804. Mr. and Mrs. Humrichouse were married Sept. 4, 1821.

Peter Humrichouse, the paternal grandfather of Charles W., was born in York County, Pa., Oct. 10, 1753. At the age of eighteen he moved to Germantown, Pa., and May, 1776, entered the army as a private in a volunteer company under the command of Capt. Duning. He was commissioned ensign, with the rank of lieutenant, July, 1776, and was officer of the day when Washington crossed the Delaware and captured the Hessians at Trenton, N. J. His term of service expired shortly afterwards. He married on the 20th of February, 1777, and remained at home until September of the same year, when he re-entered the army, in the Second Battalion of Philadelphia troops, and continued in service until the close of the war. In 1798 he moved to Hagerstown, Md., and died there in 1836, aged eighty-four years. The wife of Peter Humrichouse was Mary Post, the only daughter of Rev. Christian Frederick Post, who

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Tammany Manor (Approximate 1st floor plan)

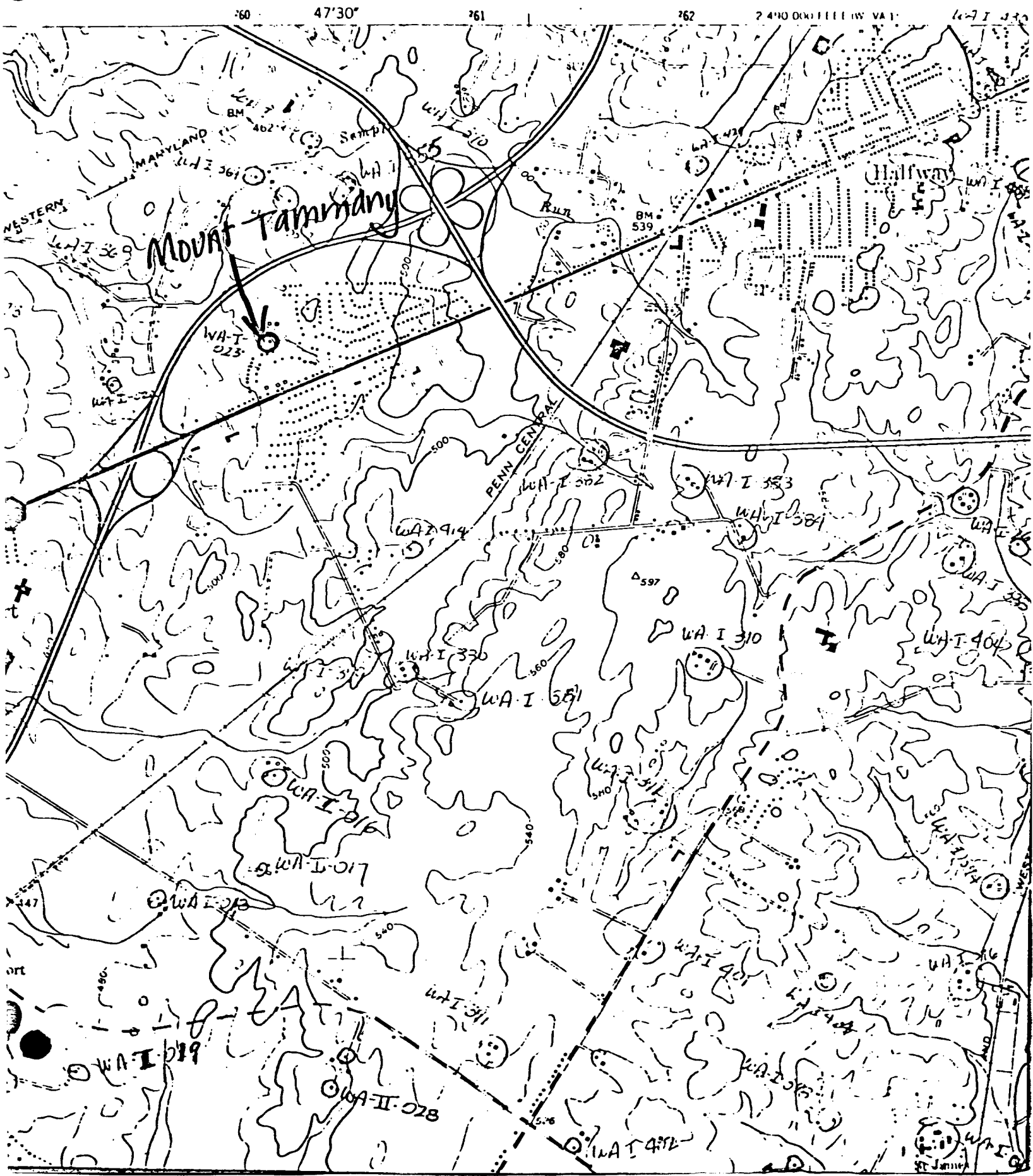
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WILLIAMSPORT QUADRAN
MARYLAND-WEST VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 WILLIAMSPORT 15' QUADRANGLE

UNITED STATES
THE ARMY
ENGINEERS



WILLIAMSPORT QUADRANG
MARYLAND—WEST VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPH
SE/4 WILLIAMSPORT 15' QUADRANGLE

